

PATENT

Appl. No. 10/055,144

Amdt. dated December 1, 2005

Reply to Office action of N/A

03-12863

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of inventor(s):

YANG, Ping

Serial Number: 09/733,873

Examiner: Van Doren, B.

Filed: 12/08/00

Art Unit: 3623

Confirmation No.: 3134

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOBILE PICKUP STATIONS

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NOTICE OF RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

Dear Sir:

Applicant has filed one or more additional applications for the technology set forth in the application captioned above as listed below (including the present application):

United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/733,873 filed

12/08/2000 for Method and Apparatus for Mobile Pickup

Stations, Attorney's Docket No. 03-12861;

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United States Patent Application Serial Number 10/348,853 filed
1/22/2003 for Method and Apparatus for Facilitating a Search for
a Pick Up Location, Attorney's Docket No. 03-12862;

United States Patent Application Serial Number 10/055,144 filed
1/22/2002 for Locker Mobile Pickup Station, Attorney's Docket
No. 03-12863;

United States Patent Application Serial Number 10/681,685 filed
10/08/2003 for Catering Mobile Pickup Station, Attorney's
Docket No. 03-12864; and

United States Patent Application Serial Number 10/798,965 filed
3/10/2004 for Method and Apparatus for Mobile Pickup Stations,
Attorney's Docket No. 04-13135.

Rejections made during examination of the indicated additional applications may have bearing to the present one. Under MPEP § 2001.06(b) (3d rev. 8th ed. 2005), these applications are hereby brought to the attention of the Examiner. The Office actions from the 09/733,873 application are enclosed. No other Office actions have issued save any in the present application.

PATENT

Appl. No. 10/055,144

Amdt. dated December 1, 2005

Reply to Office action of N/A

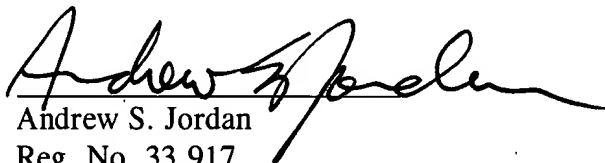
03-12863

If the Examiner believes that a telephone or other conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of the present application, enabling an Examiner's amendment or other meaningful discussion of the case, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

It is believed that the application is in a condition for allowance; and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the application on to allowance. It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's Attorney's Deposit Account No. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,

CISLO & THOMAS LLP



Andrew S. Jordan

Reg. No. 33,917

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Date: December 1, 2005

ASJ/at

Enclosures

Information Disclosure Statement
Information Disclosure Citation
Copy of '873 Office Action Dated 11/22/04
Copy of '873 Office Action Dated 6/10/05
Copy of '873 Office Action Dated 9/21/05
Acknowledgement Postcard

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December 1, 2005

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Andrew S. Jordan, Reg. No. 33,917

12/1/05

Date



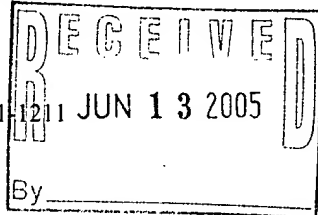
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/733,873	12/08/2000	Ping Yang	03-12861	3134

25189 7590 06/10/2005

CISLO & THOMAS, LLP
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EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/733,873

Applicant(s)

YANG, PING

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/21/05.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42 and 62-75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42 and 62-75 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a non-final office action in response to communications received 03/21/05. Claims 71-75 have been added. Claims 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42, and 62-75 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to the 35 USC § 101 rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore the 35 USC § 101 rejections have been withdrawn.

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejections based on Lyons et al. (U.S. 2002/0077937) have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive. In the remarks, Applicant argues that (1) in Lyons et al. a pickup location is a store or outlet (fixed structure) and there is no suggestion that a pickup point may be mobile, (2) Lyons et al. does not teach or suggest how to define the beginning and end of a travel route, how to select a pickup location based on the user travel route, or communicating the travel route to a server, (3) Lyons et al. does not teach or suggest an overlapping function wherein one or more overlaps of all user travel routes are used to identify an overlap section, (4) Lyons et al. does not teach or suggest a channeling function by which a channel is defined.

Before responding to these arguments, Examiner notes the following:

i. Examiner has changed her rejection of claim 8 from a 35 USC § 102 rejection to a 35 USC § 103 rejection. The arguments presented by the Applicant state that the lockers of claim 8 are to be located on and included within the mobile pickup station. The rejection has been changed to address this specificity.

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ii. Examiner points out that on page 14, bottom paragraph, of the remarks Applicant states that “the invention is achieved by the following steps” and then lists steps 1)-4). Examiner points out these steps contain many features that are not recited in currently pending claims, specifically the independent claims. For example, the steps of the remarks include that route information includes beginning and end information, that a mobile pickup station is a portable locker, etc. Examiner points out that none of the independent claims recite that route information includes beginning and end information. In fact, dependent claims 62-70 recite that route information includes a “first reference point and a channel width”, with the first reference point includes an address, a zip code, etc. Further, Examiner points out that claim 8 (a dependent claim on claim 1) is the only claim containing any recitation of a locker. Therefore, Examiner requests that if these and other argued features that are not claimed are pertinent to the invention, that they be recited in the claims to receive appropriate patentable weight.

In response to argument (1), Examiner respectfully disagrees. The claims state that a pickup point is chosen and a mobile station is dispatched to the pickup point containing a product ordered by the buyer. Therefore, the pickup point, based on the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim, is a stationary point at which the buyer would pickup a product. A mobile station, based on the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claim, is a mobile entity that carries the ordered item to the point at which the buyer will pick up the item. Lyons et al. teaches that a mobile entity contains the ordered product and travels to the selected pickup location, at which the buyer picks up the item from the locker at the pickup location. See paragraphs 0007-8 and 0054-5.

In response to argument (2), Examiner respectfully disagrees. As discussed above, the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., beginning and end travel route information) are not recited in the rejected claims. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Examiner further points out that communicating the travel route to the server is only recited in new claims 72-74 and that **how** the pickup points are selected are only recited in dependent claims (i.e. not in the independent claims). Lyons et al. teaches that the system receives a reference point and a range of locations for pickup from the buyer that are convenient to the buyer. Examiner notes that the claim does not clearly recite if the route information is that of the buyer or the mobile station. Either way, a reference point and selected pickup locations that are desirable and convenient to the buyer are route information in that this information will define the travel of both the mobile unit and the buyer and will schedule the order of events for pickup. See at least paragraphs 0007-8, 0010, 0023-4, 0030, 0032, and 0054-6. Further, the buyer of the system of Lyons interacts with a website over the internet of the seller/distributor and therefore enters the route information using this connection, therefore communicating with a server. See paragraphs 0017-9 and 0023.

In response to argument (3) that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the feature upon which applicant relies (i.e., an overlapping function wherein overlaps of travel routes are used to identify an overlap section) is not recited in the rejected claim. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

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In response to argument (4), Examiner respectfully disagrees. See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0024, 0030, 0032, and 0052, which receives a reference point and a range of locations, wherein the set of pickup points are based on this channel width and route information and the selected pickup point is a point from this channel. The buyer provides a list of acceptable pickup locations that define a channel width from which a pickup location is selected. See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, 0026, 0029, and 0054-0056.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-7, 11, 30-39, 62-63, 66-67, and 70-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lyons et al. (U.S. 2002/0077937).

4. As per claim 1, Lyons et al. teaches a method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked based on the range/ranking of locations); and

dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing a product ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

5. As per claim 2, Lyons et al. teaches wherein selecting a pickup point further comprises:

receiving a channel width and route information from the buyer (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0024, 0030, 0032, and 0052, which receives a reference point and a range of locations);

determining a set of pickup points from the plurality of pickup points based on the channel width and route information (See figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is determined using the range/ranking of locations);

calculating a channel area using the channel width and the route information (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, 0026, 0029, and 0054-0056, wherein a channel area is determined using the range/ranking of locations and a buy locally option);

determining a set of pickup points from the plurality of pickup points based on the channel area (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0026, 0029, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is determined using the range/ranking of locations and a buy locally option)

selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked).

6. As per claim 3, Lyons et al. teaches wherein the plurality of pickup points is determined using an approximate buyer route concentration based on route usage (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked based on the range/ranking of locations).

7. As per claim 4, Lyons et al. teaches a method further comprising:

receiving a plurality of routes from a plurality of buyers (See figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from buyers); and
determining the plurality of pickup points based on the plurality of routes (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked in each instance based on the range/ranking of locations).

8. As per claim 5, Lyons et al. discloses a method further comprising:

receiving a specification of a plurality of preferred products (See at least paragraphs 0007-0009, 0022-0025, 0027-0029 and 0031, wherein a seller submits the specification of products wanted by the buyers);

receiving an occurrence rate for each of the plurality of preferred products (See at least paragraphs 0007-0009, 0023-0025, 0027-0029 and 0031, wherein time periods are associated with products as well as substitution rules); and

ordering the product for the buyer using the occurrence rates (See at least paragraphs 0007-0009, 0023-0025, 0027-0029 and 0031, wherein the product is order for the buyer).

9. As per claim 6, Lyons et al. disclose a method further comprising reminding the buyer via email that a product delivery is scheduled at the pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008 and 0052, wherein the reminder is sent to the buyer via email).

10. As per claim 7, Lyons et al. teaches a method further comprising reminding telephonically that a product delivery is scheduled pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008 and 0052, wherein the reminder is sent to the buyer via telephone).

11. As per claim 11, Lyons et al. teaches a method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer by a seller using a third party seller affiliate, comprising:

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receiving an order for a product from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0009, and 0023-0025 wherein an order is received);

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked based on the range/ranking of locations);

selecting a third party seller affiliate from a plurality of third party sellers based on the location of the pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0009, 0023-0025, 0027-0028, and 0052-0055, wherein a third party fulfiller is selected); and

dispatching by the third party seller affiliate a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing the products ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

12. As per claim 30, Lyons teaches a method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

receiving a channel width from the buyer (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0024, 0030, 0032, and 0052, wherein the channel width (range) is received);

calculating a channel area using the channel width and the route information (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, 0026, 0029, and 0054-0056, wherein a channel area is determined using the range/ranking of locations and a buy locally option);

determining a set of pickup points from a plurality of pickup points based on the channel area (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0025, 0029, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is determined using the range/ranking of locations and a buy locally option);

selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked); and

dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing a product ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

13. Claims 31 and 32 recite equivalent limitations to claims 3 and 4, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

14. As per claim 33, Lyons et al. teaches a data processing system adapted to schedule and deliver a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

a processor (See figure 1 and paragraph 0015 and 0017-0020); and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions (See figure 1 and paragraph 0015 and 0017-0020), the program instructions including:

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked); and

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dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing a product ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

15. Claims 34-39 recite equivalent limitations to claims 2-7, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

16. As per claim 42, Lyons et al. discloses a data processing system adapted to schedule and deliver a product a buyer by a seller using a third party seller affiliate, comprising:

a processor (See figure 1 and paragraph 0015 and 0017-0020); and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions (See figure 1 and paragraph 0015 and 0017-0020), the program instructions including:

receiving an order for a product from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0009, and 0023-0025 wherein an order is received);

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked based on the range/ranking of locations);

selecting a third party seller affiliate from a plurality of third party sellers based on the location of the pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0009, 0023-0025, 0027-0028, and 0052-0055, wherein a third party fulfiller is selected); and

dispatching by the third party seller affiliate a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing the products ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

17. As per claim 62, Lyons et al. teaches wherein the route information includes a first reference point and a channel width (See at least paragraphs 0007-0008, 0024, 0030, 0032, and 0052, disclosing a phone number reference point and a range of locations).

18. As per claim 63, Lyons et al. teaches the route information further including a second reference point (See at least paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0025, 0029, which discloses a second reference point of pickup times or rush/urgent time frame).

19. As per claim 66, Lyons et al. teaches wherein the first reference point includes a phone number (See at least paragraphs 0007-0008, 0030, 0032, and 0052, disclosing a phone number).

20. Claims 67 and 70 recite equivalent limitations to claims 62 and 66, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

21. As per claims 71 and 75, Lyons et al. teaches receiving a date from the buyer by the server; and delivering the product by the server according to the date (See paragraphs 0010, 0023-4, 0029, wherein the buyer submits a time frame and the product is delivered according to this timeframe).

22. As per claims 72-74, Lyons et al. teaches the buyer accessing a server via a communications network; receiving an order for a product from a buyer by the seller via the communications network; receiving a channel width from the buyer by the server via the communications network; and receiving route information from the buyer by the server via the communications network (See paragraphs 0017-9 and 0023, 0055, which disclose a

communications network and a website that is served to the computer of the buyer via the internet. See also paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, 0030-2, and 0054-0056, which disclose receiving an order, channel information, and route information).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

23. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 64-65, and 68-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons et al. (U.S. 2002/0077937).

24. As per claim 8, Lyons et al. discloses wherein: the system includes a mobile pickup station and a plurality of lockers for containing products, each of the plurality of lockers having a unique access code (See paragraphs 0007-0008 and 0054-0055, disclosing a unique access code); giving the buyer an access code for a locker containing the buyer's product, the locker selected from the plurality of lockers (See paragraphs 0007-0008 and 0054-0055, disclosing a unique access code that is used by the customer).

However, Lyons et al. does not expressly disclose that the mobile pickup station includes a plurality of lockers.

Lyons et al. discloses a buyer picking up goods placed in a locker for pickup along the route of the buyer, wherein the locker is connected to the computer system. In Lyons, a mobile station carries a product to a location and places it in a locker. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the locker in the

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mobile station of Lyons et al. in order to increase the ease of the system for all parties involved, reducing the time it takes the seller to get the item to the pickup location as well as increasing the timeliness and convenience of retrieving the item by the buyer by placing the item in a desirable pickup location with shorter delivery time and distance. See at least paragraph 0010.

25. As per claims 64 and 65, Lyons et al. discloses wherein the first reference point is location information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0025, and 0054-0056). However, though Lyons et al. discloses choosing products and pickup locations using location information, Lyon et al. does not expressly disclose that this location information includes an address or a Zip Code (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0025, and 0054-0056).

Lyons et al. discloses choosing products and pickup locations using location information as well as a "buy locally" option that sends the product order to locations of stores near the buyer of the product. See paragraphs 0023-0026. Addresses and Zip Codes are old and well-known identifying information associated with locations and furthermore it is old and well known to receive a buyer's address information (including address and Zip Code) when a buyer places an order. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to receive this address and Zip Code information from the buyer of a product in order to increase the efficiency and speed of processing the order by receiving the information from the buyer instead of having to look up the information in the system and then process the order.

26. Claims 69 and 68 recite equivalent limitations to claims 64 and 65, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (571) 272-6737.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lwd
bvd

June 7, 2005


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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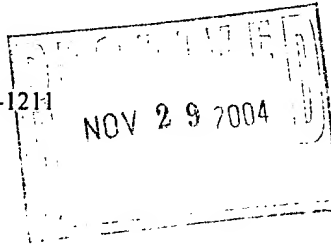
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/733,873	12/08/2000	Ping Yang	03-12861	3134

25189 7590 11/22/2004

CISLO & THOMAS, LLP
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SANTA MONICA, CA 90401-1211



EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/733,873

Applicant(s)

YANG, PING

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

[Handwritten signature]

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42 and 62-70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42 and 62-70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a non-final office action in response to the communications filed 08/24/2004. Applicant has elected Group I, claims 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42, and 62-70, with traverse. Therefore, claims 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42, and 62-70.

Election/Restriction

2. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 08/24/2004 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that there is but a single inventive concept and that the restriction is nothing more than an attempt to secure additional patent applications. This is not found persuasive because it does not provide any statements or rationale as to why the groups identified by the Examiner are one single invention. Therefore, the requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1-8, 11, 30-32, and 62-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The basis of this rejection is set forth in a test of whether the invention is within the technological arts.

For a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the technological arts. Mere ideas in the abstract that do not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to promote the "progress of science and the useful arts" (i.e. the physical sciences as opposed to social sciences, for example) and therefore are found to be non-statutory

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subject matter. For a process claim to pass muster, the recited process must somehow apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts.

In the present case, claims 1 recites a method of scheduling and delivering a product by receiving route information from a buyer, selecting a pickup point based on the route information, and dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup point. Therefore, the scheduling and delivery performed does not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts since all of the recited steps can be performed without the use of any technology. Independent claims 11 and 30, contains similar deficiencies, also reciting a method for scheduling and delivery of a product similar to claim 1 and also including steps like receiving an order for a product, selecting a third party seller affiliate based on the location of the pickup point, receiving a channel width, and calculating a channel area. Again, the scheduling and delivery performed in these claims does not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts since all of the recited steps can be performed without the use of any technology. Dependent claims 2-8, 31-32, and 62-66 further limit the recited steps above and contain the same deficiencies. Therefore, since the steps of claim 1 and its dependent claims and the steps of claim 11 only constitute an abstract idea of how to receive an order, process the order, and deliver the order to a pick-up location that do not apply, involve, use, or advance a technological art, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is directed towards non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-8, 11, 30-39, 62-63, 66-67, and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lyons et al. (U.S. 2002/0077937).

6. As per claim 1, Lyons et al. teaches a method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked based on the range/ranking of locations); and

dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing a product ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

7. As per claim 2, Lyons et al. teaches wherein selecting a pickup point further comprises:

receiving a channel width and route information from the buyer (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0024, 0030, 0032, and 0052, which receives a reference point and a range of locations);

determining a set of pickup points from the plurality of pickup points based on the channel width and route information (See figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is determined using the range/ranking of locations);

calculating a channel area using the channel width and the route information (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, 0026, 0029, and 0054-0056, wherein a channel area is determined using the range/ranking of locations and a buy locally option);

determining a set of pickup points from the plurality of pickup points based on the channel area (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0026, 0029, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is determined using the range/ranking of locations and a buy locally option)

selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked).

8. As per claim 3, Lyons et al. teaches wherein the plurality of pickup points is determined using an approximate buyer route concentration based on route usage (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked based on the range/ranking of locations).

9. As per claim 4, Lyons et al. teaches a method further comprising:

receiving a plurality of routes from a plurality of buyers (See figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from buyers); and

determining the plurality of pickup points based on the plurality of routes (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked in each instance based on the range/ranking of locations).

10. As per claim 5, Lyons et al. discloses a method further comprising:

receiving a specification of a plurality of preferred products (See at least paragraphs 0007-0009, 0022-0025, 0027-0029 and 0031, wherein a seller submits the specification of products wanted by the buyers);

receiving an occurrence rate for each of the plurality of preferred products (See at least paragraphs 0007-0009, 0023-0025, 0027-0029 and 0031, wherein time periods are associated with products as well as substitution rules); and

ordering the product for the buyer using the occurrence rates (See at least paragraphs 0007-0009, 0023-0025, 0027-0029 and 0031, wherein the product is order for the buyer).

11. As per claim 6, Lyons et al. disclose a method further comprising reminding the buyer via email that a product delivery is scheduled at the pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008 and 0052, wherein the reminder is sent to the buyer via email).

12. As per claim 7, Lyons et al. teaches a method further comprising reminding telephonically that a product delivery is scheduled pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008 and 0052, wherein the reminder is sent to the buyer via telephone).

13. As per claim 8, Lyons et al. discloses wherein: the mobile pickup station includes a plurality of lockers for containing products, each of the plurality of lockers having a unique access code (See paragraphs 0007-0008 and 0054-0055, disclosing a unique access code); and

giving the buyer an access code for a locker containing the buyer's product, the locker selected from the plurality of lockers (See paragraphs 0007-0008 and 0054-0055, disclosing a unique access code that is used by the customer).

14. As per claim 11, Lyons et al. teaches a method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer by a seller using a third party seller affiliate, comprising:

receiving an order for a product from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0009, and 0023-0025 wherein an order is received);

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked based on the range/ranking of locations);

selecting a third party seller affiliate from a plurality of third party sellers based on the location of the pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0009, 0023-0025, 0027-0028, and 0052-0055, wherein a third party fulfiller is selected); and

dispatching by the third party seller affiliate a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing the products ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

15. As per claim 30, Lyons teaches a method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

receiving a channel width from the buyer (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0024, 0030, 0032, and 0052, wherein the channel width (range) is received);

calculating a channel area using the channel width and the route information (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, 0026, 0029, and 0054-0056, wherein a channel area is determined using the range/ranking of locations and a buy locally option);

determining a set of pickup points from a plurality of pickup points based on the channel area (See paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0025, 0029, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is determined using the range/ranking of locations and a buy locally option);

selecting from the set of pickup points a pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked); and

dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing a product ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

16. Claims 31 and 32 recite equivalent limitations to claims 3 and 4, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

17. As per claim 33, Lyons et al. teaches a data processing system adapted to schedule and deliver a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

a processor (See figure 1 and paragraph 0015 and 0017-0020); and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions (See figure 1 and paragraph 0015 and 0017-0020), the program instructions including:

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked); and

dispatching a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing a product ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

18. Claims 34-39 recite equivalent limitations to claims 2-7, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

19. As per claim 42, Lyons et al. discloses a data processing system adapted to schedule and deliver a product a buyer by a seller using a third party seller affiliate, comprising:

a processor (See figure 1 and paragraph 0015 and 0017-0020); and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions (See figure 1 and paragraph 0015 and 0017-0020), the program instructions including:

receiving an order for a product from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0009, and 0023-0025 wherein an order is received);

receiving route information from a buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein route information is received from a buyer);

selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0024, and 0054-0056, wherein a pickup point is picked based on the range/ranking of locations);

selecting a third party seller affiliate from a plurality of third party sellers based on the location of the pickup point (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0009, 0023-0025, 0027-0028, and 0052-0055, wherein a third party fulfiller is selected); and

dispatching by the third party seller affiliate a mobile pickup station to the pickup point, the mobile pickup station containing the products ordered by the buyer (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, wherein the good is transported to the pickup location).

20. As per claim 62, Lyons et al. teaches wherein the route information includes a first reference point and a channel width (See at least paragraphs 0007-0008, 0024, 0030, 0032, and 0052, disclosing a phone number reference point and a range of locations).

21. As per claim 63, Lyons et al. teaches the route information further including a second reference point (See at least paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0025, 0029, which discloses a second reference point of pickup times or rush/urgent time frame).

22. As per claim 66, Lyons et al. teaches wherein the first reference point includes a phone number (See at least paragraphs 0007-0008, 0030, 0032, and 0052, disclosing a phone number).

23. Claims 67 and 70 recite equivalent limitations to claims 62 and 66, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

24. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 64-65 and 68-69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons et al. (U.S. 2002/0077937).

25. As per claims 64 and 65, Lyons et al. discloses wherein the first reference point is location information (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0025, and 0054-

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0056). However, though Lyons et al. discloses choosing products and pickup locations using location information, Lyon et al. does not expressly disclose that this location information includes an address or a Zip Code (See at least figure 2 and paragraphs 0007-0008, 0023-0025, and 0054-0056).

Lyons et al. discloses choosing products and pickup locations using location information as well as a "buy locally" option that sends the product order to locations of stores near the buyer of the product. See paragraphs 0023-0026. Addresses and Zip Codes are old and well-known identifying information associated with locations and furthermore it is old and well known to receive a buyer's address information (including address and Zip Code) when a buyer places an order. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to receive this address and Zip Code information from the buyer of a product in order to increase the efficiency and speed of processing the order by receiving the information from the buyer instead of having to look up the information in the system and then process the order.

26. Claims 69 and 68 recite equivalent limitations to claims 64 and 65, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tsukuda (U.S. 6,085,170) discloses delivering goods from a distribution center through an agent to a place such as a locker.

Moreno (U.S. 2002/0035515) teaches order fulfillment by delivery to a locker for pickup.

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Rivalto (U.S. 6,690,997) teaches pickup stations with lockers and automated package delivery.

Terada et al. (U.S. 2002/0111914) discloses ordering a product and picking it up at a delivery destination.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (703) 305-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

bvd

November 16, 2004


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 3500

Notice of References Cited

Application/Control No.

09/733,873

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
YANG, PING

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

Page 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-2002/0077937	06-2002	Lyons et al.	705/28
	B	US-6,085,170	07-2000	Tsukuda, Gunji	705/26
	C	US-2002/0035515	03-2002	Moreno, Eli	705/26
	D	US-6,690,997	02-2004	Rivalto, Michael A.	700/237
	E	US-2002/0111914	08-2002	Terada et al.	705/60
	F	US-			
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	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

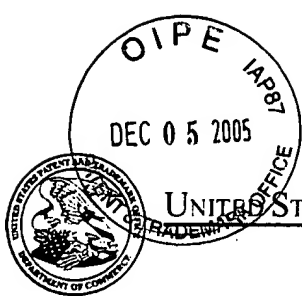
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/733,873	12/08/2000	Ping Yang	03-12861	3134

25189 7590 09/21/2005
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EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3623

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

SEP 26 2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/733,873

Applicant(s)

YANG, PING

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

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Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42 and 62-75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 30-32 and 74 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-8, 11, 33, 35-39, 42, 62-73 and 75 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 34 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20040322, 20040319</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Final Office action in response to communications received 07/07/2005. Claims 1, 11, 30, 33, and 42 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 11, 30-39, 42, and 62-75 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 30-32 and 74 are allowed.
3. Claims 2 and 34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-8, 11, 33, 35-39, 42, 62-73, and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huxter (U.S. 2002/0103653) in view of Moreno (U.S. 6,882,269).

5. As per claim 1, Huxter teaches a method for scheduling and delivery of a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising:

receiving a buyer's commuting route information from the buyer, the route information including a beginning address and an ending address (See paragraphs 0171-2, wherein the buyer's route, including home and work address, is received);

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selecting from a plurality of pickup points a pickup point based on the route information (See paragraphs 0171-2 and 0177, wherein preferred pickup points are selected);

dispatching a mobile delivery unit to the pickup point, the mobile delivery unit containing a product ordered by the buyer (See paragraphs 0182-4 and 0187-8, wherein a thirdparty deliverer is dispatched and takes the item to the pickup location);

stationing the product at a pickup station at the pick up point, whereby the buyer may pick up the order from the pickup station (See paragraphs 0182-4 and 0187-8, wherein the deliverer stations the product in a locker for pickup. See paragraph 0194, wherein the customer picks up the goods).

However, Huxter does not expressly disclose a mobile pickup station, the mobile pickup station being removable from the pickup point.

Moreno discloses wherein the pickup station is a mobile pickup station (i.e. mobile locker) as a type of locker utilized in the delivery of goods, wherein the locker contains the product (See column 4, lines 30-65, and column 5, lines 1-10, wherein a mobile locker is a variation of a locker considered in the system).

Both Huxter and Moreno disclose transferring goods from a vendor or etailer of the good to a customer who has bought the goods. Huxter discloses moving the good to the location of the locker, wherein the locker holds the good for secure pickup. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use mobile lockers to move and station the good in order to increase the efficiency of the system by originally packaging the good in the locker, rather than having an added step of the deliverer having to load the good into the locker. Mobile lockers were utilized at the time of the invention, as shown my Moreno.

6. As per claim 3, Huxter teaches wherein the plurality of pickup points is determined using an approximate buyer route concentration based on route usage (See paragraphs 0171-2 and 0177, wherein preferred pickup points are selected based on the route traveled by the buyer).
7. As per claim 4, Huxter teaches a method further comprising:
 - receiving a plurality of routes from a plurality of buyers (See paragraphs 0171-2, wherein the buyers' routes, including home and work addresses, are received); and
 - determining the plurality of pickup points based on the plurality of routes (See paragraphs 0171-2 and 0177, wherein preferred pickup points are selected for each user of the system).
8. As per claim 5, Huxter et al. discloses a method further comprising:
 - receiving a specification of a plurality of preferred products (See abstract, paragraphs 0032, 0082, 0153, wherein the specified products are ordered);
 - receiving an occurrence rate for each of the plurality of preferred products (See paragraphs 0082, 0099, 0117, 0178, wherein the order history and a delivery date are set in the system); and
 - ordering the product for the buyer using the occurrence rates (See abstract, paragraphs 0032, 0082, 0153, wherein the product is ordered).
9. As per claims 6 and 7, Huxter disclose reminding the buyer via email or telephonically that a product delivery is scheduled at the pickup point (See abstract, paragraphs 0025, 0036, 0120, 0132, 0223, wherein a notification/reminder is sent).
10. As per claim 8, Huxter discloses that the pickup station includes a plurality of lockers for containing products, each of the lockers having a unique access code, and giving the buyer an

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access code for the locker containing the buyer's product, the locker selected from the plurality of lockers (See paragraphs 0129, 0182-4, and 0187-8, wherein the deliverer stations the product in a locker of a plurality of lockers for pickup. See paragraph 0193-6, wherein the customer picks up the goods using a pin unique to the locker). However, Huxter does not expressly disclose a mobile pickup station that is removable from the pickup point.

Moreno discloses wherein the pickup station is a mobile pickup station (i.e. mobile locker) as a type of locker utilized in the delivery of goods, wherein the locker contains the product (See column 4, lines 30-65, and column 5, lines 1-10, wherein a mobile locker is a variation of a locker considered in the system).

Both Huxter and Moreno disclose transferring goods from a vendor or etailer of the good to a customer who has bought the goods. Huxter discloses moving the good to the location of the locker, wherein the locker holds the good for secure pickup. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use mobile lockers to move and station the good in order to increase the efficiency of the system by originally packaging the good in the locker, rather than having an added step of the deliverer having to load the good into the locker. Mobile lockers were utilized at the time of the invention, as shown my Moreno.

11. As per claim 11, Huxter and Moreno teach a method for scheduling and delivery of a product, as set forth above in the rejection of claim 1. Huxter further discloses selecting a third party seller affiliate from a plurality of third party sellers based on the location of the pickup point and dispatching by the third party seller affiliate a mobile delivery unit (See paragraphs 0031, 0052, 0074-9, 0096, 0100, 0166, 0184, which discloses third party affiliates).

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12. As per claim 33, Huxter discloses the elements of the program instructions, as set forth in the rejection of claim 1 above. Huxter further discloses a data processing system adapted to schedule and deliver a product to a buyer along the buyer's commuting route, comprising a processor (See figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 0125 and 0151) and memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute program instructions (See figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 0087, 0123, 0134, 0151-2).
13. Claims 34-39 recite equivalent limitations to claims 2-7, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.
14. As per claim 42, Huxter discloses the elements of the program instructions, as set forth in the rejection of claim 11 above. Huxter further discloses a data processing system adapted to schedule and deliver a product a buyer by a seller using a third party seller affiliate, comprising: a processor (See figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 0125 and 0151) and memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions (See figures 1 and 2 and paragraphs 0087, 0123, 0134, 0151-2).
15. As per claim 62, Huxter teaches wherein the route information includes a first reference point and a channel width (See paragraphs 0171-2, wherein the route includes a reference point (i.e. home) and the commuting route (to the office)).
16. As per claim 63, Huxter teaches the route information further including a second reference point (See paragraphs 0028 and 0171-2, wherein reference points are stored).
17. As per claim 64, Huxter teaches wherein the first reference point is an address (See paragraphs 0028 and 0171-2, which disclose the reference point of an address).

18. As per claim 65, Huxter discloses wherein the first reference of an address (See paragraphs 0028 and 0171-2, which disclose the reference point of an address). However, while Huxter discloses home and work addresses, Huxter does not expressly disclose a Zip Code.

Huxter discloses choosing pickup locations using home and office locations. See paragraphs 0171-2. Zip Codes are old and well-known identifying information associated with locations. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to receive the Zip Code information from a customer in order to increase the efficiency and speed of processing the order by receiving the information from the buyer instead of having to look up the information in the system and then process the order.

19. As per claim 66, Huxter teaches wherein the first reference point includes a phone number (See paragraphs 0171-2, wherein the reference point includes a phone number).

20. Claims 67-70 recite equivalent limitations to claims 62-66, respectively, and are therefore rejected using the same art and rationale above.

21. As per claims 71 and 75, Huxter teaches receiving a date from the buyer by the server; and delivering the product by the server according to the date (0099, 0117, 0178, wherein a date is received and used for delivering the product).

22. As per claims 72-73, Huxter teaches the buyer accessing a server via a communications network; receiving an order for a product from a buyer by the seller via the communications network; receiving a channel width from the buyer by the server via the communications network; and receiving route information from the buyer by the server via the communications network (See figure 1, paragraphs 0011, 0019-20, 0091, 0099-100, 0112, wherein the buyer accesses a server, orders a product, and enters information such as channel information. See

paragraphs 0171-2, wherein the channel information and width is received. Examiner interprets channel as the commuting route).

Response to Arguments

23. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection, as necessitated by amendment.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hancock (U.S. 6,202,023) discloses locating points of interest within a specified radius of a specific location.

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Behr et al. (U.S. 6,614,363) teaches finding all points of interest from a point within a certain specified mileage from the point.

Rogers (U.S. 2001/0042024) discloses purchasing goods over the Internet and picking up the goods from a storage device.

DeLorme et al. (U.S. 6,321,158) discloses points of interest, attractions, and facilities around a position with a specified radius of distance or travel time.

Huxter (U.S. 2005/0131774) discloses ordering goods from an etailer and having the goods place in a locker for pickup.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beth Van Doren whose telephone number is (571) 272-6737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

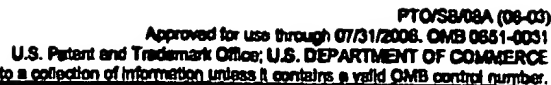
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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September 14, 2005

Susanna Diaz
SUSANNA M. DIAZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU3623



Substitute for form 1449/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete If Known

Application Number	09/733,873
Filing Date	12/08/2000
First Named Inventor	PING YANG
Art Unit	3623
Examiner Name	VAN DOREN, BETH
Attorney Docket Number	03-12861

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.†	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
Lwd ↓	A	US- 6,498,982 B2	12/24/02	BELLESFIELD	
	B	US- 6,459,986 B1	10/1/02	BOYCE	
	C	US- 6,456,900 B1	9/24/02	KAKUTA	
	D	US- 6,026,375	2/15/00	HALL	
	E	US- 5,991,739	11/23/99	CUPPS	
	F	US- 5,890,136	3/30/99	KIPP	
	G	US- 5,559,707	9/24/96	DELORME	
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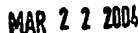
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Complete If Known

Application Number	09/733,873
Filing Date	12/08/2000
First Named Inventor	PING YANG
Art Unit	3623
Examiner Name	VAN DOREN, BETH
Attorney Docket Number	03-12861

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Examiner Signature	Beth Van Doren	Date Considered	9/14/05
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of

2

Application Number

109/733.873

Filing Date

12/08/2000

First Named Inventor

PING YANG

Art Unit

3623

Examiner Name

VAN DOREN, BETH

Attorney Docket Number

03-12861

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Application/Control No.

09/733,873

Applicant(s)/Patent Under
Reexamination
YANG, PING

Examiner

Beth Van Doren

Art Unit

3623

Page 1 of 1

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	B	US-6,614,363	09-2003	Behr et al.	340/995.19
	C	US-2005/0131774	06-2005	Huxter, Stephen	705/026
	D	US-6,882,269	04-2005	Moreno, Eli	340/5.73
	E	US-6,321,158	11-2001	DeLorme et al.	701/201
	F	US-6,202,023	03-2001	Hancock et al.	701/201
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